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Ames July. Day.

from W. H. H. H.

MEMORIAL

OF THE

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK,

TO THE

HON. THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF NEW-YORK,

IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY CONVENED.

NEW-YORK.

PRINTED BY C. S. VAN WINKLE,

NO. 122 WATER-STREET.

1814.



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*To the Legislature of the State of New-York,
in Senate and Assembly convened ; the
Memorial and Petition of the College of
Physicians and Surgeons, in the City of
New-York,*

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,

THAT the College was originally incorporated by the Regents of the University, on the 12th day of March, 1807, for the purpose of collecting and diffusing medical and chirurgical knowledge ; that it hath laboured with great diligence and faithfulness in furthering the objects of its establishment, and that it continueth to employ all the talents and powers of its members, in promoting the progress of the healing art.

The Trustees acknowledge with sincere gratitude the liberality of the Legislature, in granting them a sum of money to commence their operations, soon after their incorporation. They express a similar sentiment towards the Regents, for the generosity of those patrons of learning in amending the charter from time to time ; and they are

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proud to bear witness to the goodness of both, in fostering, with a care truly paternal, the institution which they represent.

And your memorialists beg leave further to represent to your honourable bodies, that in executing the high trust reposed in them, they have purchased a valuable real estate : they have put the same into proper repair and condition for delivering the several courses of public education for professional students. The great work of instruction in both branches of physic is going on in the most beneficial and encouraging manner, and pupils to an unprecedented number frequent the lectures of the professors.

But your memorialists are constrained to state to your honourable bodies, that in the performance of their salutary duties, they have incurred a debt, which, in the present state of their finances, they are unable to discharge. For securing the payment of this, their lot, building, and improvements have been mortgaged. At the same time, for the completion of a work so auspiciously begun and continued, it is necessary that additional improvements be made ; and for the verification of all this, a reference is made to papers and vouchers in the possession of the Regents. Whereupon,

Your memorialists humbly pray, that for the purposes of satisfying their creditors, and of yet further extending the advantages of the College, an aid be granted them, or that such other relief be extended to the College, as, in your wisdom, shall be deemed meet and proper.

By order of the Trustees,

J. AUGUSTINE SMITH.

Senior Trustee.

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D.

Register.

New-York, Feb. 16th, 1814.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of the State of New-York, in the City of New-York.

IN performing, at this time, the annual duty enjoined upon them by their charter, the College beg leave respectfully to submit to the Hon. the Regents of the University a concise statement of the proceedings of the College since the period of their last report.

At the medical commencement of the College, held in May last, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon five candidates, to whom the Regents ordered that honour to be granted.

The Professor of Natural History, agreeably to arrangement, delivered the spring and summer course of Lectures on the several branches of his department.

The Trustees of the College deeming it expedient, not only for the information of the public, but for the immediate benefit of the institution, that an historical account of the College should be drawn up from its official documents, appointed a committee for that purpose, and ordered the publication of five hundred copies of the "Historical Sketch of the Origin, Progress, and Present State of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the University of the State of New-York," a copy of which pamphlet is annexed to this Report and others forwarded for the use of the Regents.

The Trustees, therefore, forbear to enter into details which will be found in the historical narrative just mentioned. They, however, must be allowed to add, that they fully demonstrate the great benefits which have resulted to this

medical school from its re-organization by the Regents in the year 1811.

It had frequently impressed itself upon the minds of the Trustees, that a building, larger and more convenient than the one situated in Pearl-street, for the accommodation of students and professors, was the thing most necessary for the growing prosperity of the College. They accordingly determined to appropriate their remaining funds to the purchase of ground, as a permanent place for the College, and to complete a building, in all respects commensurate with the increasing character and importance of the institution.

A purchase was accordingly made of a suitable lot of ground, situated in Barclay-street, and of a building thereon, which, after great exertion and perseverance, the College has converted into an edifice which it was supposed would be adequate to its wants. In this latter expectation the Trustees have been agreeably disappointed: for just before the building was completed, the union of the Medical Faculty of Columbia College with the Professors of this Institution, so long desired, so frequently, and heretofore unsuccessfully, attempted, was effected, as far as was practicable without the sanction of your honourable board. The immediate effect of this unlooked-for event, has been so great an influx of students, (not a few of whom are from remote parts in the United States) that already are the Trustees unable to accommodate them. What then is to be done with the increasing numbers which it is confidently believed will hereafter resort to this institution for instruction?

By reference to the Report of the Treasurer, herewith annexed, it will be found, that the College has not only expended its limited funds, upon its present establishment, but has actually incurred a very considerable debt; the further accommodations, already become important, and hereafter ab-

solutely necessary, the Trustees are consequently unable to provide. Under these circumstances the College has no resource but the well-known liberality of the Legislature; and they confidently trust, that the munificence of the state will be extended to objects of such primary importance and obvious utility. To this, the expenses and pressure of the war may perhaps be opposed. But it is respectfully submitted, that such circumstances create a greater necessity for the government to bestow extraordinary attention for the encouragement of our seminaries of learning generally, and more especially for those which are designed to promote the knowledge of medicine and surgery. War necessarily draws off the attention of youth from the arts of peace and the pursuits of science. It should therefore be the policy of a wise government to patronize institutions of learning when they are in most danger of being deserted. Medical institutions, more particularly, will be regarded as objects of public attention and encouragement on account of the war in which we are engaged.

It is from schools of medicine and surgery like this, that your armies and navies are to be supplied with skilful practitioners to preserve the life and health of your military force. In vain does the government raise soldiers and seamen to fight the battles of the country, if they are suffered to perish in camps and hospitals. There may be glory in dying on the field of battle and in the arms of victory; but surely there is none in falling by the hands of an ignorant practitioner.

After a long period of peace, with an army suddenly raised, it followed of necessity that our profession was unprepared with a sufficient number of able and experienced men for this new species of service. This defect is to be remedied in future by the attention of the state to this great medical

establishment, in the city of New-York. A young man who has pursued his studies in this University ; who has seen every part of the human body dissected ; who has witnessed a great number of operations on the living body, and performed them all himself, on the dead subject at least ; who has observed the proper management of a well regulated hospital, and studied particularly the nature and treatment of diseases incident to soldiers and seamen, must be presumed to be better qualified for executing the duties of a surgeon in the army, than he who has never embraced these advantages ; and this gives a greater degree of importance, at this period, to our medical schools ; and they consequently ought to receive a proportionable degree of public aid.

The College establishment consists of a building deemed, at first, as has already been intimated, sufficiently ample for every immediate purpose ; but the experience of a single session, since the erection of the new edifice, and the consolidation of the two schools of medicine, has shown that it must be enlarged in some departments at least, greatly beyond its present amplitude ; probably three times will not be more than sufficient for the anatomical department.

The anatomical preparations, belonging to the respective professors of anatomy, being brought together into one collection, furnish a large museum, superior to any thing of the same nature on the continent ; and by a provision of the Legislature the College is supplied with a number of fresh subjects from the state prison.

We have a Chemical laboratory, furnaces, and apparatus constructed on a large scale, and in the most complete manner.

We possess a handsome collection of specimens in Natural History and Mineralogy, belonging to the Professor of those branches of science.

We have a valuable Botanic Garden, containing a great variety of rare and valuable plants, and highly useful and conducive to the acquisition of knowledge in *Materia Medica*, Botany, and the Natural History of the vegetable kingdom.

We have, moreover, connected with our institution a well regulated Hospital for practical information on the nature of diseases, and their proper treatment, where clinical instruction is given by our professors.

With these superior advantages, to which we may add diligence and zeal on the part of our professors, it is not arrogating too much to say for this school of medicine, that with proper accommodations it will yield to no other in the United States.

With regard to the Botanic Garden, the Trustees think proper to state, that it is cultivated with care, and continues in the same state of preservation as heretofore; and that it is rendered subservient to the purposes of improvement in those branches of medical science for which it was originally intended.

Before concluding this Report, the College respectfully solicit that the present Vice President of their Institution, Dr. BENJAMIN DE WITT, be also created Professor, and that he be chosen to the professorship of Natural Philosophy, and that JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D. be appointed Professor of *Materia Medica*, on which subject he has already delivered lectures, by appointment of the College, and much to its satisfaction.

They also respectfully request, that the agreement in relation to the medical faculty of Columbia College, and into which they have mutually entered with the Committee of the Regents, resident in New-York, be confirmed by your

'honourable board; and that the following additional appointments also be made in the College: viz.

WRIGHT POST, Joint Professor of Anatomy, Physiology, and Surgery.

WILLIAM HAMERSLEY, M. D. Professor of the Clinical Practice of Medicine.

JOHN C. OSBORN, M. D. Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.

JAMES S. STRINGHAM, M. D. Professor of Legal Medicine, and

VALENTINE MOTT, M. D. Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

Accompanying this Report, the College has also forwarded a certified copy of the report of the treasurer, and a list of the students attending the lectures the present session, amounting to one hundred and four.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Trustees,

J. AUGUSTINE SMITH,

Senior Trustee.

JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D.

Register.

New-York, January 25, 1814.

REPORT

*Supplementary to the Annual Report of the College of
Physicians and Surgeons of the University of the
State of New-York, in the City of New-York.*

THE College of Physicians and Surgeons respectfully beg leave to amend their annual report already forwarded on the twenty-fifth of January last, because they find that a matter then escaped their attention, which is necessary, in their opinion, to carry into effect, with entire good faith and honour, the compact between them and the Faculty of Physic of Columbia College, viz. That the Professors of that institution who have united with the College of Physicians and Surgeons, should be appointed Trustees, as well as Professors, of this College. Accordingly, the College of Physicians and Surgeons respectfully recommend, in addition to their former recommendation, that WRIGHT POST, WILLIAM HAMERSLEY, M. D. JAMES S. STRINGHAM, M. D. JOHN C. OSBORN, M. D. VALENTINE MOTT, M. D.; and also, that JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D. be appointed Trustees of this College. All which is respectfully submitted.

Signed by order of the Trustees,

J. AUGUSTINE SMITH,
Senior Trustee.
JOHN W. FRANCIS,
Register.

New-York, Feb. 3d. 1814.

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